B-3407 - B-3418   c.1845 - 1907
402-466 E. Cross St.   (North side)
Baltimore, Md.
Private access

     The north side of Cross St. east of Riverside Ave. is improved by
a variety of building types. The earliest houses on the block, a group
of two story plus attic, two bay wide brick houses built by several different
builders in the 1840's and early 1850's, is located in the middle of the
block at 430-450 E. Cross St. To the east of this group of houses, there is
a small, one story, gable-roofed brick church, built in 1873 for the congregation
of the Sailors' Union Bethel, a group of seamen who had formerly worshipped on
the William Penn, an old clipper ship berthed at the Lee St. wharf. At the
far eastern end of the block, near Covington St., there are several two and
three story, simple brick structures built in the 1870's or earlier, which
were formerly owned by the Rossmarck Brewery which operated a tavern on the
site. At the western end of the block, near Riverside Ave., there are two
distinct groups of late Victorian-style houses. The first group, 402-408
E. Cross St., is a group of two story, three bay wide brick houses with shed
roofs and bracketed cornices, built by James F. Morgan in the late 1880's as
part of his development of the adjoining section of Riverside Ave. At 410-420
E. Cross St. there is a row of two story, two bay wide brown brick houses with
shed roofs and simple sheet metal bracketed cornices, built by Walter Hampson
in 1907. This latter group, along with similar rows built by Hampson directly
north of this row on Grindall and Hamburg Streets, are the last houses to be
built in the Federal Hill area.

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sailor's Bethel Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

452-454 E. Cross St.

CITY, TOWN   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore   ___ VICINITY OF

STATE   COUNTY

Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X __OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X __YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME   Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN   STATE , zip code

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:

COURTHOUSE.   Records Office   Room 601   Folio #:
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER   Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN   Baltimore   STATE
                                                       Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN   STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3414

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The small three bay wide brick, gable-roofed church known as the Sailor's Union Bethel was built on this site in the early 1870's. The church building served as the home for a congregation of itinerant sailors formerly located on an old clipper ship, the William Penn, berthed in the inner harbor basin. A model of the original ship church hangs in the nave of the present structure.

The building is one story in height, about 24' wide, and occupies a lot 80' deep. A steeply pitched gable roof, set perpendicular to the street, forms the three bay deep nave. The church is constructed in running bond the the main area of the facade has been covered with plain formstone. The original two-tiered brick cornice has also been covered with formstone. A single covered chimney is located along the east side of the building.

The entrance is located in a projecting, steeply pedimented central bay, the steeply pitched gable roof of which is supported by two flat-topped brick piers at either end. A set of paneled double doors is set beneath a round arched lintel filled with a piece of stained glass. This round-arched entryway is set within a slightly projecting bay with wide, flat top echoing the level of the flanking brick piers. The entrance is reached by two stone steps. On either side of the projecting central bay there are two narrow side windows filled with four fixed lights arranged in a vertical column. The three long windows that light either side of the nave have round arched lintels and stone sills.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PERIOD				
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1874   BUILDER/ARCHITECT Sailor's Bethel congregation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sailor's Union Bethel is one of the most distinctive churches in Baltimore. The church began on a converted clipper ship known as the William Penn berthed at the Lee St. wharf in the inner harbor basin. The old ship was converted for services, with a roof fitted over the deck and pews set in place, in 1846, with the aim of providing a place for worship for the many transient seamen in the port of Baltimore. It was felt by the group of merchants who provided the old ship for this purpose that the sailor's might be more comfortable at their devotions in a marine setting. The original pastor of the church was a Captain Cramer, who had been the master of the William Penn before its conversion. The ship church became quite well known and its services popular. In 1852, however, the old ship was condemned and the group acquired property on the south side of Lee St. near Light where services were conducted until 1867. The congregation then moved to Hill St. until 1874 when it acquired the present property on Cross St. and members of the group built the church as it stands today.[1]   The church is a Methodist Episcopal congregation.

[1] Baltimore City Land Records, Liber GR 656, Folio 97

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

B-3414

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE   COUNTY

STATE   COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor
ORGANIZATION   DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles   6/79
STREET & NUMBER   TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.
CITY OR TOWN   STATE

Ruxton   Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
             The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
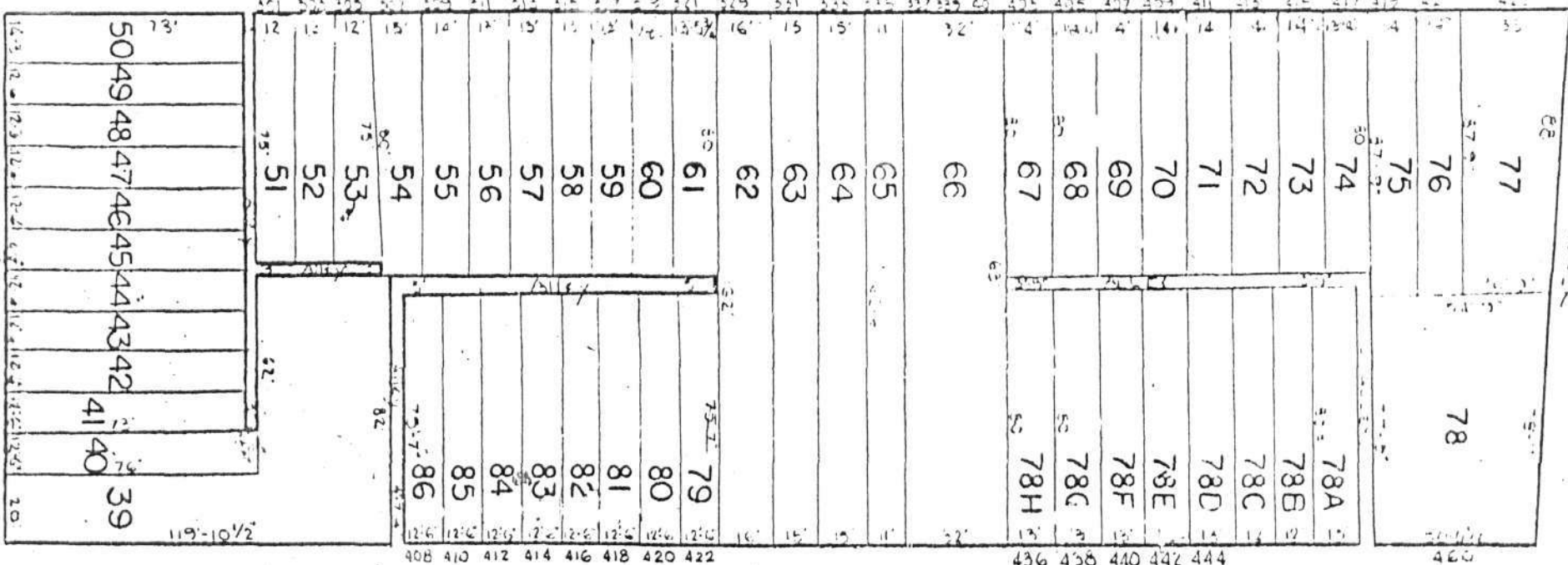   Annapolis, Maryland 21401
             (301) 267-1438
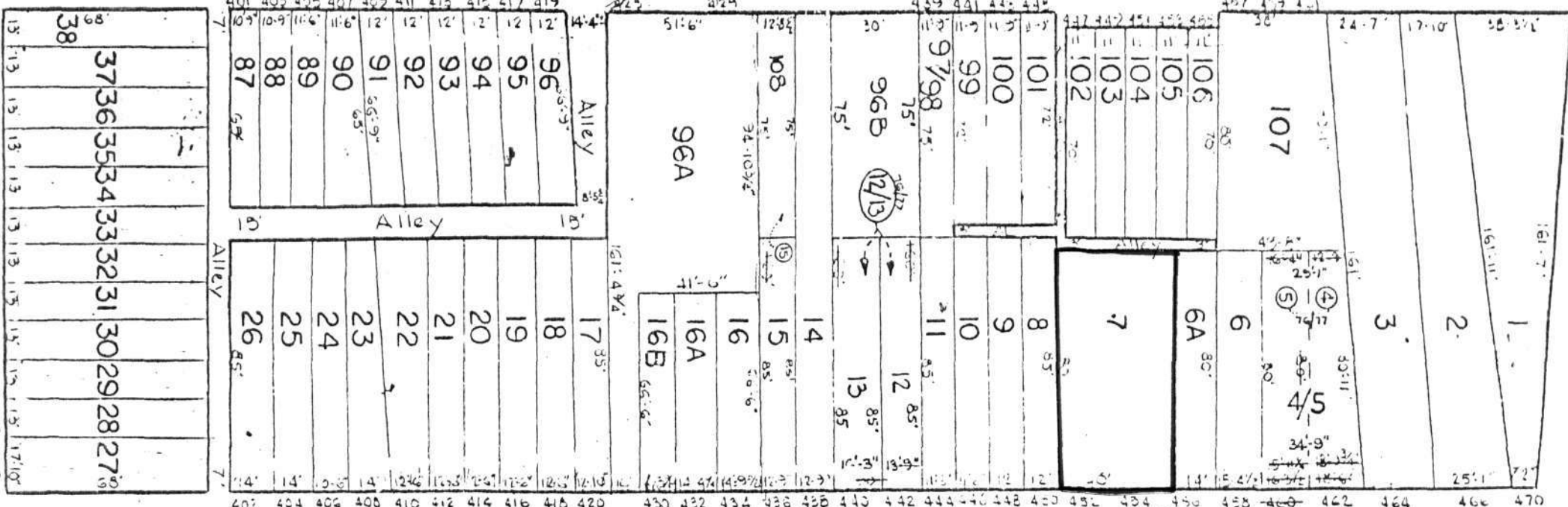
PS-1108

Top border streets:
E. HAMBURG ST.
COVINGTON
ERAL HILL PARK
ST.

Upper block — lot numbers (top row, left to right):
50 49 48 47 46 45 44 43 42 41 40 39
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

78A 78B 78C 78D 78E 78F 78G 78H

86 85 84 83 82 81 80 79

Address numbers (upper block bottom):
408 410 412 414 416 418 420 422   436 438 440 442 444

SIDE

1913

Middle street:
GRINDALL ST.

Lower block — address numbers (top):
401 403 405 407 409 411 413 415 417 419   427 429   439 441 443 445   447 449 451 453 455   457 459 461

Lower block lot numbers:
38
37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27
87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96
96A
96B
108
97/98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106
107
12/13
4/5
6A 6 3 2 1
Alley

26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17   16B 16A 16   15 14   13 12 11 10 9 8 7

Lower address numbers (bottom):
402 404 406 408 410 412 414 416 418 420   430 432 434 436 438 440   442 444 446 448 450 452 454 456   458 460 462 464 466 470

B-3414

Bottom border streets:
E. CROSS ST.
ST.
AVE

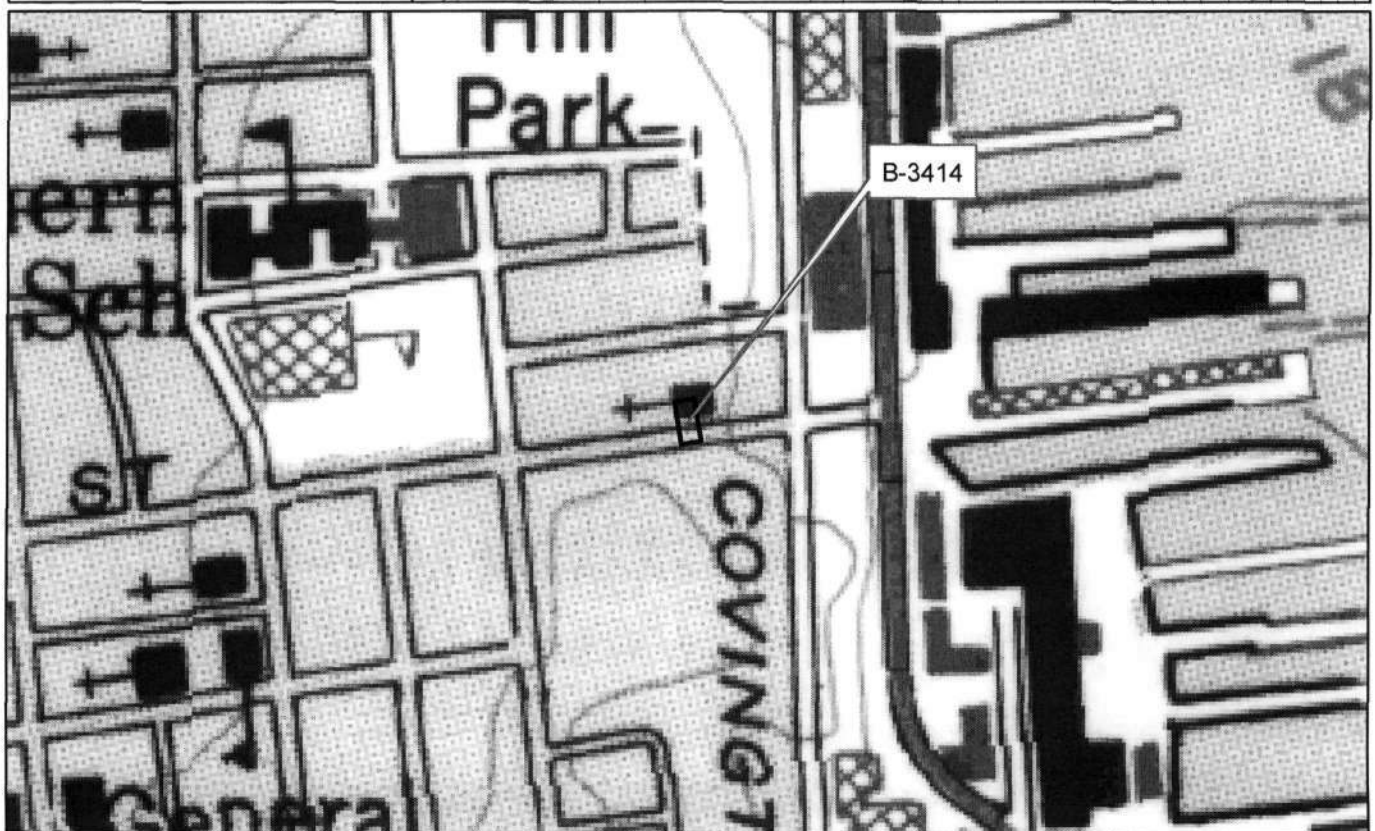B-3414

B-3414
Sailor's Bethel Church
454-454 E. Cross Street
Block 1915 Lots 007
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

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B-3414              452 E. Cross St.
M.E.H.              5/79
South elevation
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